Office of Population Censuses & Surveys

WelMOmec

## OPCS MONITOR

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## Congenital malformations - monitoring program

This Monitor is the first in the series giving the results from the monitoring program on congenital malformations conducted by OPCS. The program was suspended for 1974 due to National Health Service area re-organisation in that year. The table summarises the accumulated data for 1975.

The program, using the Cusum technique and deviation analysis, is run each month to find out if there appears to be an increase of reports of any malformation or group of malformations occurring in any area or group of areas. The Cusum program used for this analysis compares the number of notifications of a particular malformation in each area with the average level set for that area from a previous period. The reference level for the 1975 Cusum program was a monthly average of those malformations notified in 1974. The reference levels will be altered when it appears that a sustained change upwards or downwards has taken place in the average numbers of malformations notified in an area. The table lists the areas that have shown a 'significant' increase in a particular malformation for each month of 1975 and in those areas underlined the incidence was significantly above the average for England and Wales.

Care must be taken in interpreting this table since 'significant' increases may be caused by a variety of factors. For instance one occurrence of a rare malformation may create a 'significant' increase in a small area. An increase can also be created if a new midwife in an area has been more conscientiously reporting certain malformations.

Any comments on the usefulness of this Monitor would be welcomed and should be addressed to Dr J A C Weatherall, OPCS, St. Catherines House, 10 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6JP. Depending upon the response, we expect to produce a table similar to this for 1976 in the next issue of the series. Area Medical Officers will then be notified monthly of any increases in their areas and a table for each quarter will be given in the Monitor.

The method of Cusum surveillance used is fully described in Surveillance of Malformations, Weatherall, J A C, and Haskey, J C, British Medical Bulletin, Volume 32, Number 1, 1976.

A publication of the Government Statistical Service Health Authority Areas which in 1975 have shown increased numbers of particular malformations compared with the average notifications for that area and malformation during the previous year.

(Cusum test is to distinguish a significant increase).

Malformation	Area	Month
01 Anencephaly	Bradford Sandwell Manchester	August
	Salford	December
04 Hydrocephalus	Cleveland Manchester	April September
06 Other specified malformations of brain or spinal cord	Avon	June
08 Spina bifida	Dyfed Nottinghamshire Northumberland Oxfordshire Barking and Havering	March April June Septembér
18 Accessory auricle	East Sussex East Sussex	November December
21 Cleft lip	Warwickshire South Glamorgan	August October
22 Cleft palate	St Helens and Knowsley  East Sussex  Gloucestershire  Cornwall	February April October November
27 Rectal and anal atresia and stenosis	Lincolnshire	May
29 Other specified malformations of alimentary system	Essex	May
39 Specified malformations of heart and circulatory system	St Helens and Knowsley Warwickshire St Helens and Knowsley East Sussex Hampshire Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham North Yorkshire	April May July September November
30 Unspecified malformations of heart and circulatory system	Croydon	December
52 Undescended testicle	Northumberland Essex Warwickshire Salford Warwickshire Essex Bury	March June August September October November
57 Hypospadias, epispadias	Wiltshire Trafford Avon	March July September
60 Polydactyly	Brent and Harrow Bradford	May July
61 Syndactyly	Nottinghamshire	June

Malformation	Area	Month
65 Talipes	Norfolk Cornwall Rochdale Salford Warwickshire Salford Avon	February May July November
	Oldham Doncaster	December
66 Congenital dislocation of hip	Kent Cornwall St Helens and Knowsley Avon	March April May
	Kent Salford Greenwich and Bexley Kent	June September
	Derbyshire	November
67 Other specified malformations of upper limb or shoulder	Essex	October
68 Other specified malformations of leg or pelvis	Kirklees Cheshire	January November
69 Unspecified limb malformations	Lincolnshire	March
70 Other malformations of musculo - skeletal systems (including congenital hernias except hiatus hernia)	Lancashire Bromley Greenwich and Bexley East Sussex Salford Kingston and Richmond Essex	February May June July November December
71 Malformations of skull or face bones	Lincolnshire Cleveland	January June
72 Malformations of spine - scoli curvature - lordosis, not otherwise stated	osis . <u>Wessex</u>	December
83 Pigmented naevus	Lancashire  Newcastle upon Tyne  Newcastle upon Tyne  Liverpool  Rotherham  West Sussex  St Helens and Knowsley  Liverpool  Gloucestershire  West Sussex	March April May July August September October December
84 Other specified malformations of skin including icthyosis congenita	Bradford Norfolk Kent	March August
90 Other and unspecified congenit malformations	al <u>Nottinghamshire</u> Lincolnshire	January December
96 Down's syndrome	Staffordshire Staffordshire	February August
98 Other specified syndromes	Kent Birmingham	March April

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